

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please add, under “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION” on page 1 at paragraph (0001), the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/438,818, filed November 10, 1999, currently pending. This application is also related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/436,661, filed November 10, 1999, now issued U.S. Patent No. 6,609,148. The contents of this document are incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-16 without prejudice and add the following new claims:

17. (New) A method, comprising:
converting a plurality of data requests for messaging and collaboration data into a single higher level request in an enterprise gateway server;
transmitting the higher level request over a data network;
receiving the higher level request in a remote gateway server;
converting the higher level request to the plurality of data from the remote gateway server to the enterprise gateway server requests; and
providing messaging and collaboration data in response to receiving the plurality of data.
18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the data network is a public network.
19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the data transmitted over the public network is encrypted so as to form a virtual private network (VPN).
20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the VPN is formed with a Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol (PPTP) connection.